

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075773

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJ: PAKISTAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS: BEYOND THE
CONSTITUTION

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING TEL SENT SECSTATE INFO KARACHI LAHORE FROM ISLAMABAD
20 APRIL REPEATED

QTE ISLAMABAD 3201

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJ: PAKISTAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS: BEYOND THE CONSTITUTION

REF: LAHORE 404; ISLAMABAD 2993

BEGIN SUMMARY
PARLIAMENTARY DEADLOCKS IN FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN
PROVINCES CONTINUE INTO THIRD MONTH. OPPOSITION COALITION
IN LATTER MAINTAINS ITS MAJORITY WHILE IN FORMER COMPETING
PRO-GOVERNMENT GROUPS UNABLE TO COME TO AGREEMENT. BHUTTO
MAY CALL SNAP ELECTIONS IN HOPE, INTER ALIA PEOPLES' PARTY CAN
IMPROVE ITS STANDING IN TWO SMALL PROVINCES. END SUMMARY
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1. NATIONAL " CONSTITUTION WEEK" FESTIVITIES CELEBRATING
PASSAGE OF CONSTITUTION CONCLUDED APRIL 19. NEW
CONSTITUTION MUST COME INTO EFFECT PRIOR TO AUGUST 15
ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CAN DECIDE ON EARLIER DATE. IN
INTERIM PERIOD, NUMBER OF ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN.
FOREMOST ARE SELECTION OF SENATE BY PROVINCIAL
ASSEMBLIES, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT BY COMBINED SENATE
AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER
BY ASSEMBLY.

2. PROBLEMS IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER:
BHUTTO MAY BE RELUCTANT TO HAVE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES
SELECT SENATE FOR TIME BEING SINCE PEOPLES' PARTY AND
ITS ALLIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DATE TO FORM GOVERNMENTS
IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER PROVLL BE ON
NPG IN FALL WHO HAVE NOT HOSTED MEETING. NORWAY HAS TOLD
IS INFORMALLY THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO HOST SPRING 1974
MEETING (EVEN WITH GREECE ATTENDING), BUT THEY COULD NOT
HOST FALL MEETING DUE TO GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN
LATE SEPTEMBER. GREECES IS INTERESTED IN HOSTING MEETING,
BUT WILL NOT MAKE FORMAL INVIAITION UNLESS THEY ARE ASSURED
THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTIONS. NORWEGIAN DEL AT PRESENT
CANNOT ASSURE GREEKS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION
TO NORWEGIAN DEF MIN GOING TO GREECE. IN ADDITION,
GREEKS QUESTION HOSTING FIRST MEETING AFTER THEY
ROTATE BACK ONTO NPG.

2. REMAINING NPG MEMBERS AT FALL MEETING ARE CANADA, FRG,
NETHERLANDS, UK AND US. FRG, UK AND US ARE ALL PERMANENT
MEMBERS WHO HAVE HOSTED TWO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS; HOWEVER,
BOTH FRG AND UK HOSTED SECOND MEETING MORE RECENTLY THAN
US. NETHERLANDS DEL EARLIER INDICATED TO IS THAT THEY
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HOSTING FALL MEETING, BUT HAVE NOW
REVERSED THEIR POSITION, SINCE THERE IS NO PERMANENT DUTCH
GOVT. CANADA HASNOT UNTIL TODAY BEEN ASKED ABOUT
HOSTING MEETING. CANADIAN DEL OFF SAID NEITHER HE NOR
OTTAWA HAD RAISED SUBJECT SINCE HIS ARRIVAL LAST SUMMER.

3. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND TAKING POSITION TAKEN BY MISSION
OFFICER NOTED IN SUMMARY, AT LEAST INITIALLY, TO FORCE OTHER
DELS TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITIONS. THERE IS HOWEVER,
THE POSSIBILITY THAT NO COUNTRY WILL MAKE OFFER TO
HOST FALL MEETING BEFORE THE ANKARA MINISTERIAL MEETING
NEXT MONTH. THERE IS A RISK THAT WITHOUT FIRM OFFER AT
ANKARA MEETING, NPG MINISTERS WILL CHOOSE TO MEET AT NATO
HQ'S IN BRUSSLES. WE BELIEVE THAT HOLDING AN NPG
MINISTERIAL AT NATO HQ'S WOULD REDUCE THE
IMPORTANCE AND UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE NPG AND WOULD REOPEN
MEMBERSHIP QUESTION. WE, THEREFORE, BELIEVE THAT THE US
SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER OFFERING TOHOST FALL 1973

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MINISTERIAL JOINT DISCUSSION, CONFINING POINTS

TO JURIDICAL ASPECTS OF CASE.

4. IN EVENT DG NEVERTHELESS REFERS MATTER TO BOARD,
DELEGATION TO 92 ND EXBD SHOULD VOTE AGAINST ANY RESOLUTION
BARRING ISRAEL FROM SUBJECT MEETING AND VOTE FOR ANY
RESOLUTION THAT WOULD CHANGE MEETING SITE IF INDONESIAN
POSITION MAINTAINED. U. S. INTERVENTION SHOULD BE BRIEF
AND CONFINED STRICTLY TO POINT THAT REGULATIONS ARE CLEAR
AND MUST BE ADHERED TO.

5. KEEP DEPARTMENT CLOSELY INFORMED AS SITUATION DEVELOPS.

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